

Filed for intro on 05/18/95  
House Bill \_\_\_\_\_  
By \_\_\_\_\_

Senate No. SJR0247  
By Kyle

A RESOLUTION to honor Margaret Gordon Taylor upon her  
retirement from the Memphis City school system.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this legislative body recognize those who, in  
their years of work, have performed with extraordinary dedication and unprecedented devotion;  
and

WHEREAS, Ms. Margaret Gordon Taylor is one such outstanding person who has given  
unreservedly of herself for many years to develop this state's most precious natural resource -  
our children; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Taylor is taking a much deserved retirement after serving with alacrity  
and acuity as principal of Grahamwood Elementary School for more than 19 years; and

WHEREAS, she began her exemplary career in education after graduating magna cum  
laude with a bachelor of science degree from Memphis State University, where she also  
received her master's degree in education administration; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Taylor served students with enthusiasm, industry and singular acumen  
as a math teacher at East High School for fourteen remarkable years before entering  
administration; and

WHEREAS, she was then selected for administrative training with the Memphis city school system and became assistant principal at Sherwood Junior High School, serving one year before being asked to lead Grahamwood Elementary; and

WHEREAS, under her charge, Grahamwood Elementary School has received not only statewide but also national recognition; the school was selected as one of the ten best elementary schools in the state and one of the top 210 best in the nation; and

WHEREAS, during her tenure, Ms. Taylor has proven that she is more than capable of the herculean task of running a large and complex educational institution; she has earned the respect and esteem of Grahamwood's faculty and staff, parents, students and community and state officials, as she is truly a consummate leader; and

WHEREAS, her accomplishments at Grahamwood include the development and implementation of an innovative and popular Optional School program which makes available to students mini-courses in drama, Greek, Spanish, creative writing, study skills, journalism, calligraphy, and other important arts and humanities courses; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Taylor has been instrumental in the success of Grahamwood's flourishing student publications and award-winning music program and she can take pride in the fact that numerous Grahamwood students have been recognized with local, regional, state and national awards; and

WHEREAS, ever one to shoulder the mantle of professional responsibility, Ms. Taylor has unselfishly devoted herself to a host of professional associations, commissions, councils and committees of which even a brief list is inspiring: the commission to oversee the development of the Tennessee Career Ladder Program; Tennessee and West Tennessee Principals' Study councils, National Association of Elementary School Principals, Association of Large Cities Principals, Memphis Public School Principals Association and the Superintendent's Advisory Council; and

WHEREAS, despite the pressing demands of her profession, Ms. Taylor always found time to lend her talents to her alma mater, now the University of Memphis, as she has

participated in training future teachers, and was a great presence on the Department of Education Administration and Supervisory Advisory Committee; she has proven herself to be a valuable asset to the entire Memphis city school system through her efforts with the negotiating team for teacher contracts, the program evaluation and test review committees and the Superintendent selection committee; and

WHEREAS, living a life of service, which goes far beyond the spectrum of her employment, Ms. Taylor has played an active role in a number of community and civic organizations, including community advisory councils and the Tennessee Arts Commission; she has engaged herself in various philanthropic activities with Alpha Gamma Delta Fraternity and the Memphis Panhellenic Association; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Taylor is uniquely deserving of the countless awards and accolades that have been conferred upon her, including: 1991 Educator of the Year by Greater Memphis State, Inc., Outstanding Principal by the North East Memphis Optimist Club, designation in *The Commercial Appeal's* Movers and Shakers of Memphis and Who's Who in Memphis, and leadership recognition by the Optional School Office; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Taylor evinces a strong faith in the Lord through her membership at St. Luke's Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS, highly regarded as a professional and friend, Ms. Taylor is the perfect example of a person totally committed to quality education and the highest ideals of public service, and upon her retirement, it is appropriate that the members of this Assembly acknowledge their profound appreciation and gratitude to one of Tennessee's finest citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby honor Ms. Margaret Gordon Taylor for a lifetime of service as an educator and great humanitarian, and wish her much happiness in her retirement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.